

New Jersey Firefighters Assisting With California Wildfires

To date the New Jersey Forest Fire Service has had 31 wildland firefighters assigned in Northern California assisting with the battle against 322 wildfires. Since June 20, 2008, 1,781 wildfires have burned over 837,176 acres of forest and open space across the state of California. (Two firefighters returned from their 14 day assignments late last week – currently 29 are assigned.)

New Jersey firefighting resources assigned include:

1 - Type 2 Initial Attack Firefighting Crew (comprised of 20 firefighters) – with main responsibilities of building firelines, conducting burn out operations, and supporting firefighting operations.

1 – Crew Boss – assigned to the supervision and management of a California 19 person Firefighting Crew.

1 – Strike Team Leader (Crew) – assigned to the oversight and management of several Firefighting Crews.

5 – Division/Group Supervisors – with main responsibilities of incident oversight for a division or group (major portion) of a wildfire. Oversees all firefighting resources assigned within their major portion of the wildfire.

1 – Structure Protection Specialist – with main responsibilities of developing and implementing a plan to protect homes and structures threatened by the wildfire.

1 – Ordering Manager – with main responsibilities of working with an Incident Management Team under the Logistics Section. Orders resources, supplies and equipment needed to support the firefighting operation.

1 – Dozer Boss - with main responsibilities of overseeing the operation of heavy specialized mechanized equipment used in firefighting operations.

1 – Task Force Leader – assigned to the oversight and management of five single resources including equipment and personnel.

For additional information on the wildfires in California please visit the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection web site at www.fire.ca.gov/ and for information on all major wildfires in the nation visit the National Incident Information System at www.incweb.org/

Please note - All firefighting resources supplied to the State of California are authorized through a wildland firefighting mutual aid agreement between the state of New Jersey, the United States Forest Service and all fifty states. All expenses incurred by the NJ Forest Fire Service in supplying firefighting resources are fully reimbursed by the agency requesting New Jersey's assistance.